

Remarks

With entry of this amendment, claims 8 and 14-19 are cancelled, claims 7 and 12 are amended, and claims 20-27 are new claims, resulting in claims 1-7, 9-13, and 20-27 pending in this application with claims 1 and 22 being independent claims. These changes are believed not to introduce new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner has requested Applicant to restrict the application to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121: invention I being claims 1-13 drawn to an apparatus, and invention II being claims 14-19 drawn to a method.

In response thereto, Applicant elects, without traverse, to prosecute claims 1-13 in the present invention. Consistent therewith, Applicant has canceled claims 14-19 drawn to a method. Applicant also has cancelled apparatus claim 8, and has added new apparatus claims 20-27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully contends that the Examiner's rejection has been rendered moot, resulting in the pending claims 1-7, 9-13, and 20-27 all being drawn to an apparatus and being in proper condition for examination.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERTOE & JOHNSON PLLC



Megan D. Dortenzo
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,172

Date: 1 June 2004

Bank One Center
P.O. Box 2190
Clarksburg, WV 26302
(304) 624-8000